



**FOOD  
SYSTEMS  
PAVILION**  
COP28 UAE  
2023



# Food Systems Pavilion **Policy** **Asks** for COP28



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**The science is clear: reducing emissions from food systems is essential to reach Paris Agreement targets.** Food systems are a significant contributor to the climate crisis, accounting for 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emissions. They are also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which undermines food security and adaptation. At the same time, land and forests present a unique solution, having the potential to reduce and remove over 30% of our mitigation needs.

A food systems approach that looks at emissions beyond agricultural<sup>1</sup> production - including food waste, consumption, biodiversity loss and land use change - is crucial to achieve our joint mitigation and adaptation objectives. IPCC findings highlight that both supply-side and demand-side interventions are critical to enhancing food systems resilience and delivering adaptation strategies. **By addressing food systems as a whole, we can drive equitable, coherent, resilient and just ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change while ensuring global food and nutrition security.**

- **To stay within a 1.5C global warming limit, food systems must be transformed to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 including delivering on the following targets:**
- To **halt deforestation and reverse forest loss by 2030**.
- **CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use change need to be reduced to zero by 2030.**
- **Shifting to outcomes-based regenerative, low-carbon and productive agriculture solutions including reducing methane emissions in food systems.** For instance, methane emissions in agriculture need to decline by approximately 15% by 2030 (compared to 2020 levels).
- 2030 and 2050 targets of the Kunming-Montreal **Global Biodiversity Framework** under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Deliver **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030** to ensure a holistic approach to tackling the climate crisis and its impacts, including delivering food and nutrition security, equitable livelihoods and sustainable development.

<sup>1</sup> "Agriculture" refers to terrestrial agriculture and also to production of aquatic foods via capture fisheries and aquaculture

We also acknowledge the urgent need to rapidly shift away from fossil fuels to renewable, energy efficiency and fossil fuel free transport. **Food systems and fossil fuels are intricately linked.** For instance, food systems account for at least 15% of global fossil fuel use annually. COP28 offers a historic opportunity to correct the course. Incremental steps are not enough and we must drive a just transition on multiple fronts, together.

**At COP28, it is important for all actors to unite and collectively pursue robust and well-coordinated efforts to transform food systems in ways that are equitable, diverse, nutritious, sustainable and resilient.**

**PARTIES to the conference must raise ambition on food systems by:**

- Ensuring the **decision text of the First Global Stocktake recognises the importance of food systems transformation**.
- **Signing up to the Emirates Declaration on Resilient Food Systems, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action, fulfilling its commitments and updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025.** NDCs must make stronger references to food systems, set science-based, ambitious and holistic targets, and outline financing and monitoring plans to catalyze implementation.
- This will set the floor for what countries should be doing. **Parties should support independent and complementary diplomatic initiatives currently being developed**, that will set the bar for what good looks like when it comes to climate plans and food
- **Integrating a holistic approach to food systems within the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SSJW) "roadmap"** and designating food systems as a key action area within a workshop.

**NON-STATE ACTORS must catalyze action on food systems by:**

- **Signing the Action Statement of Non-State actors** to unlock the potential of food for people, nature and climate and commit to supporting norm and standard building initiatives that set ambition for the transformation of food systems.
- **Set, disclose and annually report on progress against greenhouse gas mitigation targets line with the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi)**, covering scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, inclusive of GHG emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU)

- **Assess and annually disclose climate- and nature-related financial risks** in line with the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures [by 2030].
- **Voicing strong corporate support for ambitious government reform agendas and working with government, civil society, farmers and Indigenous Peoples to transform food systems.** It is crucial that the private sector works with everyone along the supply chain to ensure a just transition.

**ALL ACTORS must pull together to finance our global and interconnected food systems:**

- Rapidly scale the proportion of climate finance being invested to transform food systems. Currently only 3% of total global climate finance is being invested in food systems annually. To achieve climate mitigation and adaptation goals, total global climate finance for food and land use needs to **see a 10-fold increase to around \$300 billion by 2030.**
- **Repurpose approximately \$400bn of the over \$600bn a year spent globally on agricultural subsidies** to deliver more sustainable and equitable food production, food security and nutrition goals.
- **Deliver financial instruments that support and protect farming communities from the effects of climate change,** ensuring food security and protecting nature.
- High-income countries must make good on their commitment to **double finance for adaptation by 2025** and develop a new, long-term finance goal that ensures sufficient resources and decision-making power is channeled to local farming communities in the global south who are most vulnerable to changing weather patterns
- **Countries must operationalize the Loss & Damage Fund at COP28** and broaden funding arrangements with finance that is new, additional, predictable, accessible, adequate and rapid to both address the impact and build resilience to the climate crisis for farming communities among others.
- These investments are insignificant compared to the **hidden costs of food systems**, which in 2020 amounted to approximately **US\$12.7 trillion in 2020**, mainly from unhealthy diets (73 percent) and environmental costs (20 percent) and social costs such as poverty and undernourishment (4 percent), among others.